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## FOOD SUPPLIES, DISTRIBUTION POOR IN SOME FARM WORK COOPERATIVE STORES

To date farm work cooperatives in Croatia have opened 60 stores, whose total trade up to the end of March amounted to about 30 million dinars. The stores in Belisce, Valpovo Srez, Bjelovar, Osijek, and Daruvar, showed good results. Food supplies in the Belisce and Bjelovar stores were fairly good. They had meat, processed meat, milk, flour, sugar, oil, honey, lard, potatoes, early fruits, eggs, etc.

Supplies were poor in Beli Manastir, Slavonska Pozega, Djakovo, Vukovar, Vinkovci, Kopi lvnica, Ludbreg, Garesnica, Cazma, Djurdjevac, etc. The store in Virovitica was closed because of a lack of supplies.

The organization and regular supply of the stores is the responsibility of the Foundation for Mechanization, or where this does not exist, of the Agricultural Commission. In some areas neither the foundations nor commissions have understood their role, and have generally given as an excuse that the cooperatives had no produce.

The farm work cooperatives in Beli Manistir Srez have 2,700 cows, but for the past 3 weeks have not sold one liter of milk in the cooperative store. They sold only 2,279 eggs although they had 34,823 chickens. Neither the Foundation for Mechanization nor the Agricultural Commission knows where these products which the farmers and the cooperatives certainly deliver to the markets, are going. In Virovitica Srez, where the store is closed because of an inadequate supply of produce, the farm work cooperatives have 2,734 cows, 25,347 chickens, 2,182 hogs, etc. Up to the present they have not supplied the store with milk, eggs, or lard. Some cooperatives in this srez, such as the "Martija Gubec" Cooperative in Novi Grad, do not even know that a cooperative store has been opened in Virovitica.

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The store in Beli Manastir had a surplus of honey, wool, soap, and ground pepper. These could not be sold in Beli Manastir because the market was over-supplied. Although the Foundation for Mechanization had two stores in Osijek, where there was a demand for these items, the cooperative did not transfer them to Osijek.

Not enough account was taken of consumer demands when the stores were opened. Stores were often opened in small towns. For example, the cooperatives in Vodnjan and Galezan opened stores in their villages and had a trade of 10,000 dinars per month, when they could have done much better by opening stores in other towns, cities, or industrial centers.

The Council for Commerce for Croatia will issue a list of towns in which farm work cooperatives will be able to sell their products and receive 15-percent-discount coupons for trade at tied prices.

The foundation for mechanization and the agricultural commissions are faced with the tasks of procuring goods, finding the best markets, systematizing bookkeeping, and obtaining packing material for the transport of vegtables, milk, etc. Supplying markets with packaged food will be possible only with improved transportation. With the arrival of seasonal fruits and vegetables, a large amount of transportation will be needed. At present the Zagreb People's Council does not have sufficient transportation facilities to move goods on time. This situation could be helped by establishing a separate transportation enterprise, and by finding more warehouses in Zagreb for produce which is delivered.

The state farms and cooperatives should notify each other at least once a week by telephone or by letter of the problems encountered, of the stocks of goods they wish to sell or transfer to other stores, of transportation difficulties, etc.

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